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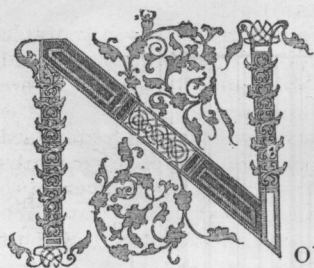
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# WITH MODERATE MEANS.

BY  
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"How to Furnish a Home,"  
ETC., ETC.

NOW that the actual working machinery of the house is fairly started it will be well to see to the entrance hall, and for producing a good effect this is quite as important as the parlor, although it will not be necessary to have it cost so much.

"I should hope not! And I really did not count upon its costing much of anything. The principal thing appears to be the paper, which the landlord, you know, gives me the privilege of choosing, as he is obliged to have a new one."

"This is a great point gained in the appearance of the hall, and as both that and the vestibule are wainscoted with darkly-painted wood, it will be a very good combination to paper the vestibule walls in Indian red and the ceiling in pale blue. The cornice molding might be in gold, black and cherry. Then, as the hall is not a very light one let that have a buff paper with the ceiling and cornice of the vestibule repeated."

"Your directions, auntie, shall be followed to the letter, and I am quite sure that my hall and vestibule will have a very different look from any of the ordinary ones I see. Mine is, of course, an ordinary house, but it will not seem common. I must say though that my preference in the way of a hall is for a grand square apartment paved with tiles. Indian red, I think with black corners."

"I am afraid we shall have to pave this one with carpet or something of a similar nature. Put linoleum in the vestibule at an expense of about \$10; stain the hall floor and lay down two breadths of crimson carpet, one breadth of which is to be continued up the stairs. At \$1.25 a yard for best body Brussels, this part of the hall furnishing will cost about \$30; stair rods or large brass nails and staining, with putting down, somewhere in the neighborhood of \$5. Then for the hat rack, which, if you agree with me, we will not have at all."

"But how can we get along without it, most wise auntie, in view of the fact that hats and umbrellas are necessities of life?"

"I will admit that, but, nevertheless, I shall proceed to demonstrate the possibility of getting along without a hat rack. Some little time ago in a small shop I saw a peculiar seat that resembled a kitchen settle in shape, but the wood was walnut and the high, straight back had two panels. The seat was perforated and lacked a cushion, but with that convenience added it would have been a very comfortable affair. It attracted my attention because of the resemblance to things one sees in pictures, and in pictures only, and I began to question the proprietor of the shop as to where the duplicate of such an article could be found. I was informed, greatly to my surprise, that the quaint piece of furniture was the *foot board of a walnut bedstead*, to which the seat had been added, also that I could probably get one at a furniture factory and have it 'finished up' at an expense of about \$5. It strikes me that this would be just the thing for your hall."

"With a crimson cushion, what a delightful suggestion! But there is usually some drawback to perfect felicity, and what becomes of the hats and umbrellas?"

"Get an umbrella stand for the latter, a very pretty one may now be bought for \$3.50, and for the former a frame of lattice-work inclosing a small diamond-shaped mirror and furnished with brass hooks for the accommodation of hats and coats. This should not cost over \$8, and, thus for \$20—which allows abundantly for cushion and extras—you have furnished your hall with an ornamental seat, an umbrella stand, and hat rack, while the cheapest hat rack we saw at the furniture warehouses was \$28, and this would not make the hall look nearly so well as the present arrangement."

"That is what I am going to have if I can get it; and as I suppose that the hall is now finished—"

"You have forgotten some Madras curtaining for the glass of the vestibule door. Get a soft yellow with a mixture of red and blue, it will have very much the effect of stained glass. A yard and a half of the fifty inch width will be sufficient, as you divide it lengthwise to cover both sides. It will cost about \$1.75 a yard."

"Altogether, then, I shall spend something like \$65 on the hall, and that reminds me to see how large a hole has been made in the \$1,000. Why, this is really a pleasant surprise, only

\$361.36! Not half gone yet, and the kitchen, dining-room, and hall are furnished."

"There will be none too much left, however; subtract the \$250 which I promised you for the parlor, and what remains?"

"By making the odd cents an even dollar the sum in hand is \$378."

"Not very much to do all that we have to accomplish with it, yet we need not despair of bringing things out even. You will scarcely buy bedroom 'sets' though at \$125, especially when you remember that the beds are a separate expense."

"And the pillows and sheets and blankets and quilts! Why this is worse even than the dining-room things."

"We will take only one part at a time, and not get discouraged until there seems to be nothing else to do."

"We are fairly up stairs now, auntie, on the second floor, and what comes first?"

"The floor itself, which I would advise you to cover hall, bath-room, and the end front room, which will be your husband's dressing room, with plain red straw matting at forty cents a yard. This will be cheaper than anything else that would answer the purpose, and it will look very nicely besides. About twenty yards, I should think, will be required, costing just \$8. A shade for the bath-room window can be had for \$1.25, and this completes the furniture of this not very exacting apartment."

"I must have a pretty blue room, you know, for that suite in ash at \$50 which we both liked so much, and as blue is rather perishable, perhaps it had better be the spare bedroom."

"Decidedly, I should say, but we will attend first to the carpet and bed and see what is left for the 'suite.' And here let me advise that wherever else you may choose to have a carpet cover the floor do not have it in a bedroom. Let the floor-covering there be taken up and shaken thoroughly on every sweeping day, and the South Kensington art rugs which we saw in such perfection at ———'s are the very things for this purpose. That sober one in light olive with an almost plain center would suit your blue room, and the cost, from \$21 to \$27, according to size, is certainly reasonable."

"Yes it is, but the objection to these rugs is the want of variety in coloring. They run almost entirely to dim peacock blues and olives, the former having a sprinkling of pink flowers. There was one ugly red, if you remember, and a gray with some small red flowers in it."

"I had forgotten the latter, but we shall probably want it. Now, to be severely practical, have you the least idea of the actual cost of hair mattresses?"

"No, I could only give a wild guess, but I should not be surprised to hear you say \$20."

"Well, I should be surprised to get a double mattress filled with good hair for that. I have priced them lately and find them, like most other things, much cheaper than they were some years ago, but even with this advantage I have seen none under \$26.50. With springs at \$3 more, you see that it costs something to get up a comfortable bed. And there are still pillows, and bolsters, with cases for both, sheets, blankets, quilts or spreads, a formidable list."

"But we need have only two double beds at present, auntie; we shall require no more except in the servants' room."

"It is not so bad, of course, as though there were half a dozen, and we will do just the best we can. Put down one mattress of cocoanut fiber at \$6—"

"Cocoanut fiber, auntie?"

"Yes, cocoanut fiber. This is one of my late discoveries, and the mattress is very nice looking as well as comfortable. It does not keep its elasticity so well as a hair mattress at more than four times the cost, but in the spare room it will have comparatively little use, and will be satisfactory for years. When it gets lumpy a thick comfortable laid over it will remedy all defects. The springs will cost \$3, a pair of pillows \$6, a bolster \$4, three pairs of sheets (cotton) \$4.50, three pairs of pillow cases about \$1.80, one pair of good blankets \$5, two bolster cases \$1, two white spreads \$2.50, one comfortable \$1.25."

"A comfortable? That doesn't seem nice to have unless it is of silk and down."

"I shall countenance no such extravagance—silk and down, indeed! And let me tell you that my comfortable is not only cheap but very light and nice besides. The cover is of paper muslin which you will find very pretty in blue, and it takes about eight yards of it at a cost of only seven cents a yard. Five rolls of cotton batting will be forty cents, worsted, Germantown wool, half an ounce, ten or eleven cents. The latter is used for tufting, as when finished the comfortable

is caught through at even distances. These home-made covers are both light and warm, and one of them is equal to a pair of blankets."

"I must have them in every room, I think; a blue one in the blue room, a pink one in the pink room, and so on. Many thanks for the suggestion."

"Next, the Kensington rug in olive at \$21, for as the back room is the smaller of the two and has not so pleasant an outlook, I suppose you will take that for the guest chamber, and it does not require the largest sized rug."

"But ought I not to keep the better room for visitors?"

"Scarcely, I should think, when you will occupy it continually, while each visitor would probably not be in it for more than a week or two during the entire year. But you can pay the visitor the compliment of more delicate and expensive furnishing if you like, because in the spare room it will not get so much wear. How much money have we spent here already?"

"About \$56, and almost everything to get, too! I cannot see how we are going to manage it all."

"We must have curtains, nevertheless, of that pretty China blue and cream Madras that we saw at ———'s for fifty cents a yard, and this will cost about \$6.25 for the two windows. Gilt chains to loop them back with at fifty cents a pair, \$1, poles, \$2."

"What reckless extravagance when we are on the very verge of bankruptcy, to spend \$9.25 on bedroom curtains. What will become of my ash set at that rate?"

"It will be left for the next customer, I fancy, for you must get a cheaper one—a bedstead and bureau for \$22—very neat and pretty, too, and then 'forage' for the other things. You can pick up a rocker for \$3 and a couple of smaller chairs for about \$1.50 each, a plain table without a drawer for \$2. Get an extra three-quarters of a yard of the Madras which will make a pretty cover for the table lined with silesia, leaving enough over for a bolster for the rocking chair to be stuffed with moss and covered first with silesia. Tied on with blue ribbons, this bolster will be found very ornamental as well as comfortable. A lounge is desirable in any bedroom but this piece of furniture may be left for a more convenient season. You can get up mantel drapery, bureau cover, toilet cushion, etc., at your leisure, and you will certainly have a very pretty room at an expense of something like \$98."

"Then such a simple bedroom as this, of moderate size, too, could scarcely be furnished—for it is not complete without a lounge—for less than \$115."

"I do not see how it could, as things are computed in our list at the lowest possible prices. Some people might make a greater show, perhaps, on less money but their purchases would scarcely bear the test of time."

"The blue room is certainly very pretty, but it has left us only \$280 for everything else up stairs."

"Cheer up, my dear, the outlook is by no means hopeless, and will probably brighten as we work our way through the two front rooms where the master and mistress of the house are to be established. Of course you have already furnished your own especial domain, figuratively, with pink."

AN important want in most of our cities is a museum of objects illustrative of decorative art in conjunction with a library of technical and artistic books—a museum such as that provided for by Mr. Ruskin, and now building at Bewdley, near Sheffield, England. Extensive public or corporate libraries are frequently singularly deficient in works of art, but what is of equal and perhaps more importance than such works to the artisan is access to exemplars of choice handicraft and manufacturing processes aiming at decoration. The sight of tasteful designs elevates his aspirations, leading him to aim at realizing superior results. Experience goes to show that museums of practical art once founded receive constant accessions of value from private individuals. We would direct the attention of those having surplus wealth to the desirability of thus applying a portion of it, in view of the fact that the demands of the public for higher art increase beyond the present ability of qualified artisans to supply.

QUITE the prevailing fashion for libraries, small parlors, boudoirs, or reception-rooms are standard lamps. The standards are different according to taste, some solid, others cast in fancy brass. They are very pretty, finished with French globes, and very useful to read by, reaching about four feet from the ground.